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International cooperation, with particular emphasis on extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purpose of confiscation, and the establishment and strengthening of central authorities

Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote the implementation of the provisions on international cooperation in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Report of the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Organized crime is considered to be a changing and flexible phenomenon. Many of the benefits of globalization, such as easier and faster communication, movement of finances and international travel, have also created opportunities for transnational organized criminal groups to flourish and to diversify and expand their activities. Traditional, territorial-based criminal groups have evolved or have been partially replaced by smaller and more flexible networks with branches across several jurisdictions. In the course of an investigation, victims, suspects, organized criminal groups and proceeds of crime may be located in many States. Moreover, organized crime affects all States, whether as countries of supply, transit or demand.

2. In that context, investigating, prosecuting and punishing organized crime have become more complex, and efforts need to be coordinated across different jurisdictions if they are to be effective. In fact, stand-alone measures taken by individual States may only cause the displacement of criminal activity to more vulnerable countries or regions, as organized crime is driven by market forces of supply and demand. The United Nations Convention against Transnational

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Organized Crime provides a broad legal framework for facilitating international cooperation and eliminating safe havens for criminal activity.

3. Since the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has carried out numerous activities and programmes to foster regional and interregional exchange of information on organized crime in all its forms, and to promote the implementation of the international cooperation provisions contained in the Organized Crime Convention. The main objectives of such programmes and activities are: (a) assisting States in enacting or revising their national legislative frameworks on international cooperation; (b) strengthening national capacities to engage in international cooperation, including by building the capacity of central authorities; and (c) ensuring the sharing of knowledge and experiences, as well as facilitating direct contact and coordination among specialists.

4. Most of those activities form part of technical assistance programmes financed through voluntary contributions by Member States. The basis for the development and delivery of the programmes is, inter alia, article 33 of the Organized Crime Convention, pursuant to which the Secretariat should assist the Conference in carrying out the activities set forth in article 32, which include facilitating activities by States parties under articles 29 to 31 (on training and technical assistance, implementation of the Convention through economic development and technical assistance, and prevention). Through mandates contained in their resolutions and decisions, the Conference and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, among other bodies, have called for UNODC to pursue its efforts to deliver technical assistance at the request of and in consultation with beneficiary Member States.

5. Most recently, in its resolution 6/4, the Conference noted that technical assistance was a fundamental part of the work carried out by UNODC to assist Member States in the effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. Guidance on technical assistance activities to promote implementation of the provisions on international cooperation in the Organized Crime Convention is provided to UNODC through various mechanisms established by the Conference of the Parties, including the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance.

II. Assisting States in enacting or revising their national legislative frameworks on international cooperation

6. The Organized Crime Convention provides Member States with a legal basis to seek extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purpose of confiscation without the need for bilateral agreements in each case. It also includes provisions on the transfer of sentenced persons and the transfer of criminal proceedings, joint investigations and special investigative techniques. However, in many instances, implementation and incorporation into national law of the relevant provisions of the Organized Crime Convention are necessary in order to enable States to engage in international cooperation and render the broadest range of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

7. The legislative assistance efforts of UNODC focus on supporting States to enact or revise their relevant legislative frameworks. The process constitutes the foundation for future steps to prevent and combat specific forms of transnational organized crime. UNODC has assisted countries in adopting laws that formally create a national central authority with responsibility for preparing and receiving assistance requests and with the authority to act as a focal point for international cooperation. UNODC has also assisted in drafting laws that address the scope of mutual legal assistance that may be provided by a State, the form in which requests must be received, and the rules regarding the provision of such assistance.[1]

8. Legislative assistance provided by UNODC staff at headquarters and in field offices is not limited to the drafting of legislation, but may cover the full spectrum of activities and consultations required for the adoption of a new legislative framework, from initial legal assessments and gap analyses to the provision of advice to parliamentarians. Activities may also include assistance in resolving legal challenges in harmonizing national legislation, including through the use of examples of legislation enacted by other States parties, and through the development and provision of legal tools, such as model legislative provisions and legislative guides.[2] Assistance has also been provided to relevant authorities in gaining a thorough understanding of the requirements of the Convention and its Protocols.

9. Since 2012, UNODC has provided legal advisory services for the drafting of new legislation or for the review and amendment of existing frameworks on mutual legal assistance and extradition in Ethiopia, Myanmar, Nigeria and Viet Nam. In Viet Nam, UNODC conducted an in-depth assessment of the legislative and institutional framework for international cooperation in criminal matters and formulated key recommendations for the drafting committees of the country's new criminal code and criminal procedure code, with respect to a possible review and revision of its judicial assistance law. In Myanmar, UNODC experts supported a national workshop on the review and revision of a new draft law on extradition. In the context of the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors, UNODC provided legal advisory services to Nigeria in the preparation of a new law on mutual legal assistance.

10. UNODC has also been involved in the delivery of legislative assistance in relation to international cooperation in matters pertaining to other areas of its

[1] For an outline of legal considerations that may need to be taken into account during the process of adopting a new national legislative framework on international cooperation, and the approach and methodology of UNODC in delivering legislative assistance in relation to the Organized Crime Convention, see document CTOC/COP/WG.2/2013/4, in particular paragraphs 36-40 and paragraphs 47-49, and document E/CN.15/2014/12.

[2] For example, UNODC has developed the following: *Model Legislative Provisions against Organized Crime*; *Model Law against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition*; *Model Law against Trafficking in Persons*; *Model Law against the Smuggling of Migrants*; *Model Provisions on Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing, Preventive Measures and Proceeds of Crime (for Common Law Legal Systems)*; *Model Law on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters*; *Model Legislation on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism*; *Model Law on Extradition*; and *Legislative Guides for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto*.

mandate, such as corruption and terrorism.[3] To the extent possible, the delivery of such legislative assistance has been coordinated across UNODC branches and programmes. In the case of Myanmar, for instance, technical assistance was delivered jointly by the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch and the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch.

III. Strengthening national capacities to engage in international cooperation

11. The establishment of a central authority with the responsibility and power to receive and draft requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition is a key requirement of the Organized Crime Convention. It is also a practical necessity, given that States are receiving a growing number of requests, which require swift and thorough responses. The institutionalization of such functions aids in concentrating expertise in a single body and in monitoring the execution of mutual legal assistance and extradition requests. It also contributes to the preservation of institutional memory and of key contacts established over time with partner countries.[4]

12. Hence, an important aspect of UNODC efforts to promote international judicial cooperation has been supporting the creation and strengthening of central authorities. That work is in accordance with Conference resolution 5/8, in which the Conference, inter alia, referred to the need to strengthen central authorities and encouraged States parties to facilitate training activities for central authorities and other actors who are engaged in international legal cooperation to combat transnational organized crime.

13. In Ethiopia, UNODC has supported the national central authority by providing assistance and expert advice on the development of standard operating procedures. In other instances, UNODC provided training to staff of central authorities, prosecutors, magistrates and law enforcement officers, as appropriate, on the use of the Convention, best practices in international cooperation in criminal matters and recent trends, such as the exchange of electronic evidence.

14. Regional networks of central authorities and/or prosecutors, established with the assistance of UNODC, have proven to be instrumental in building national capacities to engage in international judicial cooperation. The networks also act as catalysts for the identification of technical assistance needs in their member countries, and represent a generic and flexible vehicle for the delivery of technical assistance, which promotes coherence in the delivery of similar assistance to other countries of the same region. The networks also encourage the participation of designated focal points in regional training sessions, which can reinforce meaningful capacity-building.

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[3] For the latest overview of UNODC activities to strengthen international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to countering corruption, see document CAC/COSP/2013/4, in particular paragraphs 27-29 and E/CN.15/2014/3. Information on activities related to terrorism prevention is available from the UNODC website (www.unodc.org).

[4] For further information on the coordinating role of central authorities for mutual legal assistance, see document CTOC/COP/WG.3/2014/2.

15. While the approach of such networks is essentially regional, they also support prosecution offices, justice ministries and other relevant entities at the national level, through the identification of good practices, knowledge and specialization against organized crime. In Honduras, for example, the establishment of the Anti-Extortion Unit was a direct result of consultations held during the Central American Network of Prosecutors against Organized Crime (REFCO) workshops on the investigation of extortion offences held in El Salvador from 5 to 9 March and 29 to 27 April 2012. In the context of the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors, UNODC provided assistance to Nigeria in drafting laws and regulations in order to establish the national central authority as an autonomous body. The Network also held a national training workshop in Burkina Faso, in May 2014, on principles and best practices in international cooperation in criminal matters and operational cooperation in investigating and prosecuting cases of drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. UNODC is currently planning similar national training workshops in Benin and Togo.

16. Other activities aimed at strengthening competent national authorities have been delivered through dedicated regional or national workshops and meetings. In June 2013, UNODC held a meeting on international legal cooperation in the Gulf to combat transnational organized crime in Abu Dhabi. The Office also co-organized a regional conference with the League of Arab States on international and regional cooperation to combat transnational organized crime, held in Egypt in February 2014, which provided an opportunity for central authorities to discuss the particular challenges of international cooperation in cases involving digital evidence.

17. In addition, UNODC convened national training events on international cooperation in criminal matters, including in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in March 2013, and in Namibia and Saudi Arabia, in March 2014. In Saudi Arabia, UNODC has supported the Ministry of the Interior in strengthening the innovative national standing committee for legal assistance requests, which involved training members of the Committee and facilitating discussions on the workflow and procedures of the Committee.

18. UNODC also aims at informing practitioners about best practices in international cooperation and the use of the Convention as an effective basis for cooperation in cases with a broader theme, or when addressing specific types of crimes, such as trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime or trafficking in cultural property. UNODC and the European Union Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq jointly supported the Government of Iraq in delivering training and facilitating consultations on international cooperation in combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, which were held in Baghdad in November 2013.[5]

[5] Details about such crime-specific workshops can be found in the Conference documentation, in particular documents CTOC/COP/2014/3, CTOC/COP/2014/4, CTOC/COP/2014/5 and CTOC/COP/2014/6.

IV. Ensuring international coordination and the sharing of knowledge and experiences

19. The transnational nature of organized crime requires greater coordination among countries at the policy level, in order to exchange information and knowledge and to develop sound policies, and at the operational level, in order to successfully carry out investigations and prosecutions. UNODC aims at supporting those objectives by convening meetings of specialists to discuss specific aspects of combating organized crime, creating networks of practitioners and other platforms for coordination, and disseminating analyses and knowledge products.

20. One of the major developments in international cooperation during the last few years has been the establishment of regional networks for stronger judicial cooperation. Through the nomination of focal points and the holding of regular meetings and training events, the regional networks assist participating central authorities and prosecutors to develop direct contacts with their counterparts, exchange information about their respective legal systems and procedures, build trust and share good practices. The long-term objectives are to create a community of practitioners within each region and to facilitate cooperation in ongoing cases. The need for and the benefits of such networks have been demonstrated by the experiences of and good practices emanating from networks such as the European Judicial Network, Eurojust, the European Police Office (Europol) and the Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation (IberRed).

21. In that respect, in its resolution 6/1, the Conference of the Parties requested UNODC to continue to establish networks and other mechanisms to facilitate formal and informal cooperation, including through regional and interregional meetings and exchanges of experience among practitioners. Since the sixth session of the Conference, UNODC has further developed REFCO activities and contributed to the creation of a network in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus (covering Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), and one in West Africa. Consultations are currently being held on the operational modalities for the establishment of a network in the Middle East and North Africa and one in East Africa. A recommendation to establish a network of South American prosecutors specialized in combating organized crime was put forward at the plenary assembly of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors held in Panama in November 2012.

22. REFCO was launched in March 2011, with the objective of improving transnational investigations into and prosecutions of organized crime by strengthening the capacities of national specialized units and reinforcing regional and interregional operational and judicial cooperation. To date, over 1,200 prosecutors have participated in REFCO training sessions. The network has coordinated joint investigations that have led to arrests, seizures and convictions in at least 12 organized crime cases: for example, coordination among prosecutors from Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua resulted in the seizure of $543,940.[6]

[6] See document CTOC/COP/WG.2/2013/3, para. 23. Additional information about REFCO is available at www.refco.org.pa.

23. Since the creation of REFCO, three additional countries have joined the network. The Integration System of Central America (SICA) has identified REFCO as the main platform for the implementation of its capacity-building master plan for the period 2013-2015, and the Central American and Caribbean Council of Attorney Generals has amended its statutes in order to incorporate REFCO as the governing council responsible for implementing its regional initiatives in the area of organized crime. Funding for that initiative has unfortunately been exhausted and UNODC remains at the disposal of interested donors to discuss possible future activities for the REFCO network.

24. UNODC utilized the successful models of REFCO, the European Judicial Network and Eurojust to promote the creation of a similar network in West Africa. The Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors was established in November 2012 and launched in May 2013. Its functions reflect the regional priorities defined in the Bamako Declaration and strategic framework on impunity, justice and human rights and in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa. The purpose of the Network is to strengthen the central authorities responsible for preparing and receiving requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition, and to facilitate the exchange of experiences related to the prosecution of different forms of serious and organized crime. ECOWAS member States, and Mauritania, are part of the Network, which also coordinates with relevant regional entities, such as the ECOWAS Court of Justice and the Africa Prosecutors Association.

25. The meetings of the Network are planned biannually and enable members to share experiences and exchange information about national legal systems, procedures and best practices. Practical training sessions on the process of engaging in international judicial cooperation are also organized as part of those meetings, as well as discussions on the forms of organized crime that most affect the region, in order to encourage prosecutors to consider crimes in their regional dimension.

26. Three regional meetings of the Network were held between May 2013 and May 2014 and cooperation between two countries has already been facilitated on the margins of those meetings. The Network has also enabled some countries to express their needs for assistance in amending their national framework for international cooperation or for establishing a central authority. The Network may also be used as a vehicle for South-South cooperation. For instance, it was agreed that a West African country with an advanced framework for combating organized crime would share its experience with another country of the region in the context of a bilateral mission.

27. In order to assist the relevant authorities of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and the Southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) in addressing challenges in the handling of transnational organized crime cases, UNODC has designed an initiative on establishing and reinforcing the network of prosecutors and central authorities from source, transit and destination countries in response to transnational organized crime in the two regions. Through regular interregional meetings, the initiative is aimed at: (a) ensuring that each participating country has a dedicated and effective central authority with the necessary tools and consistent point(s) of contact; (a) serving as a platform for strengthening knowledge regarding the legislation and procedures of

transit and destination countries and for sharing information on forms of transnational organized crime within the subregion; and (c) facilitating practical judicial cooperation.

28. The initiative was launched in May 2014, in cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor-General of Kazakhstan, at the first interregional workshop for source, transit and destination countries, at which the issue of transnational trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern routes was discussed. The workshop was attended by the central authorities and senior prosecutors of 14 countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and United States of America) and representatives of Eurojust, Europol, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network.

29. In the longer term, regional networks for judicial cooperation will contribute to the development of interregional links, facilitated by the clear identification of central authorities and focal points in participating countries and the possibility of connecting those regional networks. UNODC has made available a list of regional judicial cooperation networks on its website.

30. Activities to promote the sharing of knowledge and experience on international cooperation were also undertaken in the specific context of preventing and combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. UNODC provided direct support for the sharing of information between source, transit and destination countries in the context of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. UNODC also organized various interregional workshops, such as the interregional cooperation multidisciplinary training workshop to respond to the smuggling of migrants held in Vienna in July 2013, which was aimed at promoting informal and formal cooperation and information-sharing, through establishing communication procedures and facilitating information and data-exchange.[7]

31. Through its Global Programme on Firearms, UNODC has also provided a platform for promoting international cooperation and information exchange. UNODC further facilitated information exchange between firearms practitioners through the organization of regional seminars in West Africa and Latin America. A firearms training curriculum developed by UNODC includes a specialized module on international cooperation for the purpose of prosecution of firearms-related offences. The topic of international cooperation for the purpose of investigation into and prosecution of firearms trafficking also featured prominently in national training courses organized by UNODC in Benin, Burkina Faso, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ghana and Senegal.[8]

32. UNODC is actively engaged in supporting efforts to increase coordination and sharing of information on transnational drug trafficking groups and on precursor control. The Office has been promoting regional law enforcement cooperation

[7] For more details about the activities of UNODC to promote international cooperation to combat the smuggling of migrants, see document CTOC/COP/2014/4.

[8] For more details about the activities of UNODC to promote international cooperation to combat trafficking in firearms, see document CTOC/COP/2014/5.

through, inter alia, the establishment of and the provision of support to regional centres such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the joint planning cell of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, the Gulf Criminal Intelligence Centre to Combat Drugs and the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre. These centres constitute platforms for sharing criminal intelligence and coordinating multilateral operations. Cooperation and coordinated multilateral operations within the framework of the centres have resulted in significant seizures of heroin, hashish and other drugs, arrests of active members of criminal organizations and the identification and dismantling of a number of organized criminal groups.

33. One of the elements of the UNODC interregional drug control approach to stemming the trafficking in drugs from Afghanistan is promoting closer cooperation between the regional centres through the "networking of the networks" initiative, in order to establish and strengthen cooperative links between the centres and other international and regional law enforcement organizations, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Europol and the World Customs Organization. As a preliminary step, an inter-agency meeting was held in Turkey, in December 2013, during which the mandates and priorities of the participating agencies were examined and opportunities for collaboration and coordinated operational activities were explored. Another meeting, at which emphasis will be placed on practical cases and their operational component, is planned to be held in October 2014 in Qatar.

34. UNODC is also supporting the development and operation of two asset forfeiture mechanisms: the Asset Recovery Network of Southern Africa and the Asset Recovery Network of the Financial Action Task Force of South America against Money-Laundering. Such regional mechanisms encourage collaboration, information-sharing and cooperation among prosecutors, investigators and law enforcement officials dealing with asset confiscation and recovery. UNODC has assisted in the launch of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific. Following a regional seminar that took place in March 2014 in Senegal, UNODC is currently exploring the feasibility of setting up a similar network in West Africa. It also organized several regional and interregional workshops focusing on the prevention and suppression of illicit financial flows. In June 2014, it organized a workshop focusing on illicit financial flows from wildlife trafficking that was held in Botswana.

V. UNODC tools for international cooperation in criminal matters

35. In the delivery of training, UNODC places particular emphasis on practical approaches, using case studies and work in groups. It uses a series of manuals, in particular the *Manual on Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition*, the *Manual on International Cooperation for the Purposes of Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime* and the *Handbook on the International Transfer of Sentenced Persons*,[9] which were developed in 2012 and validated by informal expert group meetings.

[9] Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/tools-and-publications.html.

36. The Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool is another useful resource that can be used either by central authorities in the context of their daily work or by UNODC, in connection with case studies, as part of its training for workshop participants. The tool is computer-based and was developed by UNODC to assist States in drafting requests for mutual legal assistance. The tool guides the casework practitioner step by step through the request process for each type of mutual legal assistance, notifying the drafter if essential information has been omitted. The tool consolidates all data entered and generates a correct, complete and effective request for final editing and signing. It is currently available in over 10 languages, including Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian, English, Farsi, French, Montenegrin, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian and Spanish. Since August 2012, 555 additional users have requested and received copies of the tool.

37. Since 2012, UNODC has embarked on a process of upgrading the tool, in order to offer additional features and possibilities for asset recovery and the exchange of electronic evidence. UNODC is currently making arrangements to redesign the tool, in order to make full use of the latest technology and to improve its case-management features, in order to provide for a reliable tracking system for incoming and outgoing mutual legal assistance requests.

38. An informal expert group meeting was convened from 8 to 9 May 2014, with a view to obtaining advice on enhancing the tool's functionality. The experts shared views on, inter alia: (a) the importance of running the tool on current devices and platforms; (b) making the tool available in national languages; (c) finding a balance between the use of free text boxes and automated templates; (d) linking the tool to the UNODC directory of competent national authorities, national websites and templates, as well as to legal terminology dictionaries; and (e) including samples of effective mutual legal assistance requests in the tool. Participants also agreed on a set of concrete steps to develop the revised tool, such as piloting it at the national level and linking it to other relevant ongoing initiatives being implemented at the international and regional levels.

39. UNODC maintains the directory of competent national authorities under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the Organized Crime Convention, with a view to offering easy access to the contact details of and other relevant information about the authorities that are designated, under the relevant conventions and protocols, to receive, respond to and process requests relating to extradition, the transfer of sentenced persons and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, as well as those engaged in efforts to counter drug trafficking by sea, the smuggling of migrants by sea and trafficking in firearms.[10] The directory is available as both an online database and a printed handbook and contains the contact information of competent national authorities from 173 Member States, in addition to the European Union and the Holy See.

[10] Authorities designated under the 1988 Convention (articles 6, 7 and 17), the Organized Crime Convention (articles 16-18), the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (article 8) and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (article 13), supplementing the Organized Crime Convention.

40. UNODC is further developing the password-protected, online version of the directory,[11] which currently has 725 users, including 263 new users since the sixth session of the Conference. Preparations are under way to migrate data to an updated platform and to add additional relevant details to the online directory, such as information on relevant regional and bilateral agreements, links to national legal and procedural requirements and websites, and details about any declaration made by a State party in respect of the use of the Organized Crime Convention as a legal basis for extradition.

41. The directory of competent national authorities is linked to a more comprehensive initiative of disseminating knowledge on organized crime through the creation of the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws against Organized Crime (SHERLOC). The portal hosts a repository of laws relevant to the Convention and its protocols and is searchable by country, article and crime type. It also includes a case law database that contains jurisprudence on organized crime in all its manifestations, such as trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, money-laundering, participation in an organized criminal group, drug offences, trafficking in cultural property, cybercrime, counterfeiting, falsified medicine and obstruction of justice.[12]

42. UNODC has also strived to promote knowledge and analysis about international judicial cooperation and related provisions of the Organized Crime Convention through the preparation of substantive reports and discussion papers for submission to the Conference and its working groups, the drafting of a discussion guide for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-third session and the preparation of summaries of responses received from States through questionnaires and the omnibus self-assessment checklist.[13] UNODC has also produced transnational organized crime threat assessments,[14] the purpose of which is to promote knowledge about organized crime and to support the development of evidence-based policies.

VI. Conclusions

43. The present report outlines the breadth of UNODC activities to promote the implementation of the provisions of the Organized Crime Convention on international cooperation, as well as the results and successes of such activities.

44. The Conference, at its seventh session, may wish to discuss the following issues:

(a) The most salient legal and practical challenges related to the implementation of the international cooperation provisions of the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

[11] Available at www.unodc.org/compauth.

[12] For more information about SHERLOC, see document CTOC/COP/2014/11.

[13] See, in particular, documents CTOC/COP/WG.2/2013/3, CTOC/COP/WG.2/2013/4, E/CN.15/2014/12 and CTOC/COP/WG.3/2014/2, and conference room paper CTOC/COP/WG.2/2013/CRP.1.

[14] Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/TOC-threat-assessments.html.

(b) The ways in which technical assistance to support international judicial cooperation can best be utilized to ensure an effective response to all forms of transnational organized crime;

(c) The most effective ways in which UNODC can ensure the sharing of knowledge and experiences and facilitate direct contact and coordination among specialists from different Member States;

(d) Tools and other aids that would be most useful in supporting the work of international cooperation practitioners.